



### **Coffee with Council – Public Outreach Meetings**

**July 26, 2014 at 9:00 a.m.**

**Location: Creekside Cafe**

**Topics of Discussion**

#### **Residences at Central Park Extended-Stay Hotel**

- Concern about 2 projects; Residences at Central Park (220 units at Claycraft & Morrison) and 2<sup>nd</sup> development (95 units on Taylor); whole area was going to be commercial and some talk of future convention center; Don Kenney is developer and is smartest developer in United States; area zoned commercial, but found a loophole and the extended-stay housing is being marketed as apartments (residential); advertising says your kids will go to Gahanna Jefferson schools; big impact on schools; Taylor/Taylor Station intersection is unsafe; Engineering told her Taylor Station is near impossible to widen; okay with extended stay but not apartments; every time developer comes to City with project they get their way; destroyed city's vision of having Conference or Convention Center there.
  - City Attorney is aware of issue and looking into it; may need to change city code to specifically address extended-stay hotels.

#### **Save the Pools**

- Resident said pools are a hot issue right now; went to information session last year but ended up just listening to Parks and Recreation Director and Mayor's "spiel"; thinks pool should be making money. Said group of residents currently talking about having fundraisers and possibly selling corporate memberships; the YMCA doesn't have enough pool capacity; may need to ask City for 1 year amnesty to get things worked out.
- Resident asked if VFW is for sale.
  - Council said part of problem is that pool needs to be rebuilt; would like to see City sell; maybe look at a recreation levy but don't know how many residents would support; would be wonderful if YMCA would get involved; especially since City purchased land for current YMCA to go where it is to give residents opportunity to have a recreation center; currently looking at all options.
  - Council said plan was to purchase enough parcels of land as they become available to combine and develop a west side park that would include a community pool, soccer fields/ball diamonds restrooms, etc.; have made temporary fixes to pool but if it fails it will cost \$5 million to replace; City had to assist Jefferson School District Recreation Council to keep the pool open because residents were vocal back then about wanting it to stay open; City never wanted to be in pool business; recent economic crisis and reduced memberships have also contributed to current situation; need to meet day-to-day expenses now, last 6 months spent looking at budget to identify waste.
  - Council stated the VFW wants the City to purchase land and lease building back to VFW for \$1 a year; west side park included the VFW parcel of land; some feel recreation isn't a right, it's a want.

- Recreation, infrastructure and police are a big piece of what large employers look at when locating within a City; some people think recreation is just nice to have, but it is almost a necessity.

### **Rumpke Trash Contract**

- Concern about Rumpke contract and huge containers.
- How did City get a reduction in cost?
- Can administration talk to Rumpke about what can be recycled? They can't recycle plastic bags, etc.
  - Council said already resolved; are staying with status quo which will actually be a reduction in cost.
  - Reduction in cost was because City is part of consortium and bid came in lower; would really like to be able to provide larger recycling bins to residents without charging extra; amazing how much trash is generated; just look at trash plant on Jackson Pike or if anyone remembers Bedford Landfill off of Claycraft; when small recycling bin is full then sometimes just more convenient to start putting in regular trash can.

### **Flashing Caution Lights around School**

- Resident likes the flashing beacons on the back of the School Zone signs when reduced speed signs are flashing; if you enter school zone and are already inside of the school zone, you can now see that reduced speed signs are operating; need to add same beacons in other places throughout Gahanna.
  - Council said school zone actually starts where McDonalds used to be; so if you came out of parking lots or curb cuts within the zone before, you wouldn't know they were flashing.

### **Hines Road**

- Concerns about west side of Hines Road and whether or not it is in Gahanna or Columbus; small portion doesn't have sidewalk; is there a plan in works to add; hardly any berm to walk on; traffic flies by; resident takes bus and tries to walk pulling briefcase on wheels; can't maneuver.
  - Council thinks this may be Columbus; can't add sidewalk if not Gahanna; will check into it.

### **Priority Plan**

- City should consider asking for input from residents on prioritizing projects; could be online where residents can log on and choose the priority of City projects and develop strategic plan; not a survey that the City pays a lot of money for where questions are asked and answered; similar to a planning "charrette" (workshop) that can be used to let residents (stakeholders) choose the order in which projects are done.
  - Council said interesting idea; need to discuss further.

### **Hamilton Road Development**

- Are parcels of land on Hamilton Road north of Rocky Fork development all going to be commercial?
  - Hamilton Road plan was done in past; City has to be cognizant of property owner's rights as well as neighboring residents; can't dictate what happens if someone is offered large amount for their properties and they decide to sell; if done correctly traffic should be better because multiple curb cuts are removed and people aren't backing onto Hamilton Road.

### **City Council Facebook Page**

- Has City Council considered starting a Facebook page; would be extension of Coffee with Council meetings where residents can share ideas, ask questions and get answers?

- Already have City Facebook page and Twitter; problem is finding someone who can monitor page on regular basis.

### **Coffee with Council Notes**

- Resolution of items only states “closed”; would like to explanation of how items were resolved instead.

### **Communications**

- Continue getting input and questions from residents and evaluating process.
- Upcoming Coffees with Council are scheduled as follows:
  - Saturday, August 2 at 9:00 a.m. – Tim Horton’s, Agler & Stygler Roads
  - Wednesday, August 20 at 6:30 p.m. – Donatos Pizza, 1391 E. Johnstown Rd.
  - Thursday, September 11 at 6:30 p.m. – Panera, 91 N. Hamilton Rd.
  - Saturday, September 27 at 9:00 a.m. – Creekside Café, 53 Granville St.